

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the through consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 3-12 and 14-19 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the Amendments and Remarks set forth hereinbelow.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on January 17, 2006. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 has been received from the Examiner.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-10, 13-16 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by Friday. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention currently includes independent claims 1, 7 and 14. Accordingly, comments will be separately provided for each of these independent claims.

Amended independent claim 1 includes a combination of elements and is directed to a lamp apparatus for a vehicle. The lamp apparatus includes a body frame having a lamp unit including a supporting member, in which the lamp unit has a light emitting diode as a light source in a lamp body. Also included is a voltage adjustment means for adjusting a voltage to be applied to the light emitting diode. Further, the voltage adjustment means is provided separately outside said lamp body, and the voltage adjusting means is disposed within an accommodation portion of the supporting member.

These features are supported at least by Fig. 3 and the corresponding description in the specification. For example, Fig. 3 illustrates a voltage adjustment means 30 being disposed within an accommodation portion 32 of the supporting member.

On the contrary, as shown, in Fig. 3 of Friday, the alleged voltage adjustment means 18 is separated from the supporting member 14 by wires 21. Fig. 4 of Friday also does not teach or suggest the voltage adjustment means being disposed within an accommodation portion of the supporting member.

Further, amended independent claim 7 includes a combination of elements and is directed to a blinker apparatus for a vehicle including a blinker having a light emitting diode as a light source in a lamp body, and a voltage adjustment means for adjusting a voltage to be applied to the light emitting diode. Further, the voltage adjustment means is integrally provided in a blinker relay separately from said lamp body, and the blinker relay is attached to a vehicle body frame of the vehicle.

These features are supported at least by Fig. 9 and paragraph [0078]. For example, Fig. 9 illustrates the blinker relay 110 being attached to the vehicle body frame 135. Further, the voltage adjustment means is integrally provided in the blinker relay.

Regarding independent claim 7, the Office Action indicates Friday teaches a blinker apparatus 10 comprising a blinker 14 having a light emitting diode 12 as a light source in a lamp body 15, and a voltage adjustment means 25 integrally provided in a blinker relay 18 separately from the lamp body and cites Figs. 3 and 4. However, as clearly shown in Fig. 3, the blinker relay 18 is not attached to a vehicle body frame. Further, the voltage adjustment means 25 is not integrally provided in the blinker relay 18.

In addition, amended independent claim 14 includes a combination of elements and is directed to a lamp apparatus for a vehicle wherein a light emitting diode is used as a light source. The lamp apparatus includes a voltage adjustment means for adjusting a voltage to be applied to the light emitting diode and a lamp body case formed of a heat-radiating member. Further, the voltage adjustment means is attached to the heat-radiating member and the light emitting diode is attached to the heat-radiating member in a spaced relationship from the voltage adjustment

means. Also, the lamp body case includes a bottom wall and a circumferential wall so as to form a tubular-shaped lamp body case having an opening on a side opposite to the bottom wall, and includes a high heat radiating cover covering the opening.

These features are supported at least by Fig. 11, which illustrates a lamp body case including a bottom wall 151 and a circumferential wall 154 to form a tubular-shaped lamp body case having an opening 152 on a side opposite to the bottom wall 151, and a high heat radiating cover 153 covering the opening.

Regarding independent claim 14, the Office Action indicates that Friday teaches a heat-radiating member 15 in which the voltage adjustment means is attached to the heat-radiating member 15 and cites col. 6, lines 20-26 and Fig. 1. However, it is respectfully noted col. 6, lines 20-26 merely recites that a resistor 25' is connected to a positive or negative end of each row of the LED. Friday does not teach or suggest the claimed lamp body case including the voltage adjustment means and light emitting diode as claimed by the present invention.

Accordingly, in light of the above comments, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1, 7 and 14 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 103

Claims 5 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Friday in view of Meggs et al., and claims 6 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable of Friday. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted these rejections have also been overcome as the claims rejected therein are dependent claims and Meggs et al. also does not teach or suggest the features recited in the corresponding independent claims.

CONCLUSION

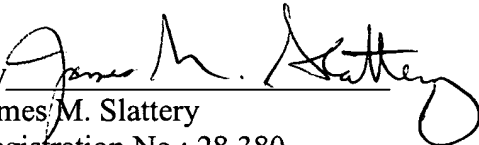
In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner, either alone or in combination.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone David A. Bilodeau at (703) 205-8072 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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